



THE CITY OF
CANTON
THOMAS M. BERNABEI, MAYOR

December 24, 2018

Ms. Karen Diemer
City Manager
City of Arcata
736 F Street
Arcata, CA 95521

Dear Ms. Diemer,

I am writing with respect to the statue of President William McKinley that currently resides in Arcata and is scheduled for removal based on the outcome of the city's November ballot measure. As the city where President McKinley built his life and career, and the city where he is buried, we are interested in seeing the statue relocated to Canton, Ohio as the City of Arcata considers options for the statue's future.

Canton's history and identity are inextricably linked to President McKinley as a historical figure. The city is home to the McKinley Monument, an iconic dome on a hilltop overlooking our downtown, located on the grounds of the McKinley Presidential Library & Museum. The City also houses the National First Ladies' Library, which honors all first ladies and operates from the home where President McKinley's wife Ida Saxton McKinley grew up, and where they lived during McKinley's time as a Congressman representing Canton.

Bringing the McKinley statue to McKinley's hometown of Canton would provide a fitting future location. We will be sure that the statue's ultimate location in Canton is publicly visible and will generate public benefit. We have identified a number of local resources that are interested in assisting our efforts to bring the statue to Canton. These include the Timken Foundation, one of Stark County's oldest and largest private foundations; Coon Restoration & Sealants, one of the largest historic renovation firms in the Midwest based in Canton; and members of the Belden family who are descendants of McKinley.

On behalf of our city, I would gratefully appreciate your consideration of this inquiry. If we are able to obtain the statue, we would of course memorialize its history in Arcata. I look forward to updates about the City of Arcata's future plans for the statue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at thomas.bernabei@cantonohio.gov or by telephone at 330-438-4300. Thank you and my best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

Thomas Bernabei
Mayor

